

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-31 are now present in this application. It should be noted that the amendments to original claims 1-22, 24-27 and 29-31 of the present application are non-narrowing amendments, made solely to place the claims in proper form for U.S. practice and not to overcome any prior art or for any other statutory considerations. For example, amendments have been made to broaden the claims; remove reference numerals in the claims; remove/change any phrases unique to European practice; and to place claims in a more recognizable U.S. form, including the use of the transitional phrase "comprising" as well as the phrase "wherein". Other such non-narrowing amendments include placing apparatus-type claims (setting forth elements in separate paragraphs) in a more recognizable U.S. form. Again, all amendments are non-narrowing and have been made solely to place the claims in proper form for U.S. practice and not to overcome any prior art or for any other statutory considerations.

**CONCLUSION**

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, an early indication of the allowability of each of claims 1-31 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

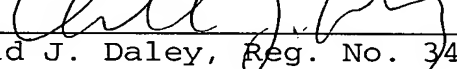
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is

respectfully requested to contact Donald J. Daley at the  
telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in  
this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or  
credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any  
additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37  
C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKY & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By:   
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